

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-33 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) of claims 1, 3-6, 12-13, 16-19, 23, and 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 7-11, 14, 15, 20-22, and 24-28 are allowed by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed June 10, 2005.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AND 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-6, 12-13, 16, 19, 23 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Powell (US 6,678,392). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

At issue in the rejected claims is the term "graph." The Examiner noted at page 4 of the Office Action that "claim 1 does not claim authentication of a graph, but instead is directed towards authentication of graphical data."

It is Applicant's position that whereas it was known to embed authentication data in a digital image (e.g., a photograph or other multiple-bit-per-pixel image), it was not recognized how one might embed authentication information in a graph comprised of one bit per pixel values. Indeed given how little information there is to work with within a one bit per pixel graph, prior to the Applicant's invention, those of skill in this art would not have considered placing authentication information in a graph.

In order to accommodate the Examiner's observation that the rejected claims do not explicitly use the term "graph," independent claims 1 and 29 have been amended to recite that the graphical content includes at least one graph comprised of one bit per pixel values and that this graph is then used in the authentication process. Some of the dependent claims have also been revised to match the antecedent basis provided in the independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are thus now allowable over Powell. Inasmuch as the remaining claims have already been allowed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on all of the foregoing, the Applicant(s) believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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